

REMARKS

This application has been carefully reviewed in light of the Office Action dated August 22, 2008. Claims 1-7 and 9 are presented for examination, of which Claims 1, 7, and 9 are in independent form. Claims 1, 7, and 9 have been amended to define Applicant's invention more clearly. Favorable consideration is respectfully requested.

Claims 1-3, 5, 7, and 9 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,972,863 (*Parry*). Claim 4 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over *Parry*, in view of an alleged admission on page 1, ll. 23-27, of the originally filed specification; and Claim 6 was rejected as being unpatentable over *Parry* in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,137,590 (*Mori*). Applicant submits that independent Claims 1, 7, and 9, together with the claims dependent from Claims 1 and 7, are patentably distinct from the cited references for at least the following reasons.

Claim 1 is directed to an image processing apparatus. The image processing apparatus includes read means, authentication means, search means, setting means, and output means. The search means are for reading an image on a document that contains image storage information representing a location where an original image of the document is stored. The authentication means are for authenticating whether a user can utilize an original image of the document. The search means are for searching the original image of the document from an image storage device which stores the original image of the document, on the basis of the image storage information when the user is authenticated by the authentication means. The setting means are for automatically setting, in accordance with an authentication by the authentication means, a destination for the original image of the document to an address of the user authenticated by the authentication means. The set

destination is different from the image processing apparatus. The output means are for outputting the original image of the document searched by the search means to the destination set by said setting means.

Among other features of Claim 1 are the setting means for automatically setting, in accordance with an authentication by the authentication means, a destination for the original image of the document to an address of the user authenticated by the authentication means, where the set destination is different from the image processing apparatus. By virtue of this feature, it is possible for an authenticated user to obtain a searched original image by using the user's own personal computer, for example, rather than the claimed image processing apparatus itself. This feature is useful to facilitate setting the destination while avoiding an unintentional setting of the destination.

Parry relates to a printing method in which only a printer, and its destination, receive a searched document to print it. *Parry* does not disclose or suggest setting a destination of the searched document as a destination other than the searched printer.

For at least these reasons, Claim 1 is believed to be allowable over *Parry*.

Independent Claims 7 and 9 include features similar to Claim 1 and are believed to be patentable for at least the same reasons as discussed above in connection with Claim 1.

A review of the other art of record has failed to reveal anything which, in Applicant's opinion, would remedy the deficiencies of the art discussed above, as a reference against the independent claims herein. Those claims are therefore believed patentable over the art of record.

The other claims in this application are each dependent from Claim 1, and are therefore believed patentable for the same reasons. Since each dependent claim is also deemed to define an additional aspect of the invention, however, the individual reconsideration of the patentability of each on its own merits is respectfully requested.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, Applicant respectfully requests favorable reconsideration and early passage to issue of the present application.

Applicant's undersigned attorney may be reached in our New York Office by telephone at (212) 218-2100. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our address listed below.

Respectfully submitted,

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